



## LEGACY TEACHING INSTITUTE

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Dear Brethren and Fellow Laborers,

As brethren, we talk much to each other and know perfectly well that many of us have had, are going through, or will go through trials. No trials are exactly the same from person to person, but we do grow in empathy for each part of the Body of Christ that is suffering.

Usually when it's the Passover and even throughout the year as we do go through sufferings, we think of Jesus—as we are to discern His body. We think and meditate on our “faith heroes” and THEIR trials—past and present. We tend to focus on the positive end results and the miracles performed in their or our lives.



Jacob wrestled and prevailed having power with God and men; and named the place Peniel “for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.”<sup>1</sup>

Leon and I were reading Genesis again. Somehow Jacob's statement to the Pharaoh when arriving in Egypt just struck us in a big way! Jacob, grandson of Abraham, son of Isaac, and father of the twelve tribes said to Pharaoh that “**My days have been few and evil.**”

So we thought on Jacob's life, and this time considered his many hardships and trials.

- Jacob's mother Rebekah (who **first was barren**) enquired of God **why the twins struggled in her womb**. A much bigger struggle was to ensue between two future nations; and Esau would serve the younger Jacob.
- **Isaac loved Esau and Rebekah loved Jacob.**
- Brother **Esau sold his birthright** for a bowl of red lentils to Jacob.
- **Isaac's eyes were so dim that he couldn't see.** He was old and wanted to bless Esau his first born before his death.
- **Deceit of Jacob (who bought the birthright) and his mother's lead in the deceit to obtain father Isaac's blessing**—or a possible curse if this deceit were found out.
- Jacob is blessed before Esau returns. **Esau hated Jacob and planned to kill Jacob.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Penuel>. Depiction of Jacob Wrestling with the Angel at Peniel, by Eugene Delacroix.

- **Jacob runs for his life** to Haran from where came his grandfather Abraham, father, and **mother (who Jacob never saw again.)**
- In Haran, **Jacob loved Rachel**. He worked for Laban seven years for Rachel's hand. Laban **deceitfully gave elder sister Leah** on Jacob's wedding night, after making him drunk.
- Jacob had to work seven more years for **Rachel, who turned out to be barren**. **She told Jacob: "give me children or else I die."**
- **Leah after giving Jacob four sons (Rueben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah) also became barren, so gave her handmaid Zilpah** to Jacob.
- In hopes of becoming pregnant, **Rachel made a deal for Leah's mandrakes** which were given to her by her eldest son Reuben. **Rachel got the mandrakes and Leah got to sleep with Jacob**. There's more internal strife between the wives and concubines—but the mandrake story stood out.
- **Laban**, the sister of Rebecca, and Jacob's father-in-law, didn't trust Jacob with the cattle. Laban's sons **accused Jacob of "taking all that was their father's... for which Jacob has gotten all this glory. And Laban's attitude was not as before."**
- Jacob called Rachel and Leah and told them that their father had deceived him and changed his wages 10 times... **Both wives said that they had no inheritance with their father and were counted as strangers for their father and that he had sold them and "quite devoured also our money."**
- **Jacob fled with wives and all he had without Laban's knowledge**, for which Laban chased after Jacob, but caught up with him after seven days. **In addition to that Laban's idols were stolen—unbeknownst to Jacob, that it was Rachel** (who deceitfully sat on the idols that were not found.) **Jacob pronounced a death sentence on whomever took them**. Jacob was angry with Laban and defended his honesty and loyalty for the past 20 years!
- After leaving Laban it was scouted out that Esau with his 400 men were on the same path—coming towards each other. **Jacob was "greatly afraid and distressed" to meet his brother Esau**, and planned his strategy.
- **Jacob's only daughter Dinah was defiled by Prince Shechem** and wanted her as wife. All her brothers were grieved and answered Shechem and his father deceitfully with regards to the **circumcision deal made**. **While ALL the men were still sore, Simeon and Levi slew every male**. Jacob said: "You have troubled me to make me stink among the land." **Simeon and Levi lost their first born status due to being cruel and bloody**.
- Soon after leaving Shechem, **Rachel was in hard labor giving birth to Benjamin, the youngest and last son of Jacob**. **Rachel, his beloved wife, died after giving birth**.
- **Reuben, the eldest son had relations with Bilah**, Jacob's concubine—Rachel's handmaid, and **therefore lost his first born status**. (1 Ch. 5:1)
- **Jacob's father Isaac died at 180. He and Esau buried him**.
- **Jacob's had a favorite son, Joseph, the first son of his old age by Rachel, the wife he loved**. He "loved Joseph more than all his children." Jacob made him a **coat of many colors (possibly a coat that an heir would wear (remember Jacob wore Esau's "coat" during his blessing.)**

●**Jacob’s sons hated Joseph and could not speak peaceably with him.** So at the age of 17, Joseph brought an evil report to his father Jacob after feeding the sheep with all his brothers.

●After Joseph’s dreams, **his brothers rebuked him and hated him even more at the thought of their mother, father, and all brothers bowing down to the earth to their little brother Joseph.** Even Jacob rebuked Joseph.

●Jacob sent Joseph to Shechem where his brothers were feeding their flocks. But the brothers were in Dothan (the high road to Egypt for caravans from the east) when **“*the dreamer*” was sighted and they plotted to kill him.** Only Reuben was against the plot. The brothers took Joseph’s coat and threw him into a pit with no water. When a band of Ishmaelite’s (**sons of Abraham by Hagar**) came, **Judah had the *brilliant* idea to sell their brother for 20 pieces of silver.**

●Joseph was taken to Egypt where he was **sold again to Potiphar, Pharaoh’s Captain of the Guard.**

●Not sure where in Jacob’s timeline; but **Judah, Jacob’s fourth son, had much trouble with his evil sons Er and Onan. God slew them both. Tamar who plays the whore and who Judah says was “more righteous than I”—gets pregnant by Judah bearing twins Pharez and Zarah.**

●**All what happened to Joseph was unknown to Jacob—who thought Joseph dead.** The fact that the coat of many colors was bloodied and framed to show a wild animal killing Joseph—was a **secret that all the brothers NEVER revealed.**

●When the famine was great, **Jacob sent all his sons except Benjamin to Egypt to get grain—“that we may live, and not die.”**

●**After cross-examinations, and various pranks, Joseph made himself known to his brothers and sends for his father Jacob—and YES they all bowed to the earth.**

●When Jacob meets the Pharaoh he says: “My days have been few and evil.” Few because he didn’t live as old as Abraham (175) or Isaac (180). Evil because of all of the above.

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Satan is the God of this world. Jesus tells us to pray: “Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil (the Evil One.)

God put these things in the Bible for us! Maybe there was MUCH more in Jacob’s life not written.

Nonetheless, and—incredibly so—**God was with Jacob all the time!** God talked to him quite regularly—fought with him, AND for him—gave him the same promises as he gave to Abraham and Isaac.

In the Bible “Jacob” is mentioned 377 times and “Israel” 2,576 times.

Jacob, along with all the other faithful—the faithful we also emulate—through trials and miracles; is mentioned three times in the “faith chapter”! We all—God’s heirs look to a different city, country, or kingdom—not of this world! Onward Christian Soldiers!!!

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## BLESSINGS FROM THE CHURCH OF GOD IN HONG KONG

### 1. Chiang Mai Visit from the Dobsons!

It is difficult for Leon and me to tell you all the blessings that have come about here in Thailand and Burma. We have had the loving support from our Hong Kong brethren—that is the UCG Hong Kong board approved the costs for making possible the Dobson visit. Also Earl Roemer and Vic Kubik were fully supportive! In the ministry, we have worked under the Dobson's some twenty years ago in Palmdale, Lancaster, and Bakersfield, CA—so there is a huge TRUST factor; AND, they have now served in an Asian country for over five years. Also since Mr. Earl's visit to Myanmar last year—we see someone who is dedicated above measure—and also understands Asia for over 20 years.



Chiang Mai “Goodbye dinner” with our dear Dave and Denise, who sacrificed an insane trip for us here in Asia.  
Front Row: Eamon, Bronson, Norah, and Denise.  
Back Row: Owen, Gloria, Brennen, Leon, Ganya, and Dave.



Leon and Gloria at Lanna Hospital

Recently, Leon had been in the hospital four out of five weeks due to water in the brain. The first shunt did not work. An “adjustable” shunt was decided on to replace the old. And encouragement was on the way.

Dave and Denise Dobson were going to come and visit us in Thailand. But, we asked them to please visit our brethren in Burma and that we would be OK. But they decided to come and see us, AND, go to Burma on a “whirlwind” eleven-day trip. Leon and I have been greatly encouraged. We need to think of the future of our brethren!

We will quote Mr. Earl Roemer: “It appears from preliminary updates that God's ‘hand’ was definitely with the efforts expended to once again meet with Leon and Gloria and the Spirit led believers in Northern Myanmar.

“While Leon is currently boldly facing serious health challenges, it is obvious that God is upholding the decades of work Leon and Gloria have expended in Thailand and Myanmar through LEGACY. I am very pleased to be welcomed by Leon and Gloria to help carry on the work they are doing and

have done in that region of the world. . . . in a “debriefing” session with David and Denise Dobson . . . We had a VERY productive and profitable discussion about assisting in serving the brethren in Yangon and Northern Myanmar. We discussed forming a TEAM to assist in serving the brethren in Myanmar. There is obviously a multiple of factors that come into play. Keeping the LEGACY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM viable and continuing; serving the brethren GOD is working with; and offering leadership training for those who serve ‘boots on the ground’ in the region.”

### 2. Dobson's Visit the Myanmar Brethren!

Here is what Denise wrote while on their “Journey of Sacrifice” to Myanmar:

“ . . . about our Myanmar adventure . . . We were warmly greeted at the Yangon airport by Seng Mai, Victor (Zin), Toomar, and Myo Zaw. Seng Mai kindly and competently guided us through the purchase of a sim card for our phone, and she explained the exchange rate . . . 1,400 Kyats alarmed us . . . until we figured out that it's just a dollar.

“ . . . We would've been completely bumfoozled on our own! They were all very patient and kind with us! Toomar and Myozaw treated us all to a wonderful Burmese lunch with a lot of fresh veggies, and Seng Mai made sure we had no MSG. (She also made sure the restaurant here at the Pathi Hotel knows our dietary needs.) After we rested at the WONDERFUL, comfortable, and very clean Azure Hotel, Seng Mai took us to Myo Zaw's home to visit. Then Victor drove Seng Mai and us on a city tour which was delightful in spite of the rain. . . .

“Victor took Seng Mai, Hser Nay Paw, and us to the bus station. The bus ride was so comfortable and cool! Seng Mai made sure we were in the very front seat with a good view and great leg room for the bus ride. What a beautiful scenic drive!

“We were delighted to briefly meet Seng Aung when we arrived at the Pathi Hotel. After a nice lunch, we retired to our very comfortable room where we are resting and catching up on email, etc. . . And we look forward to spending the day with our brethren tomorrow!

“Praying for Leon's continued improvement and for your strength and help as you care for him, and of course also for Bronson and Jib and family. Legacy is most certainly a joint family effort, and Leon's health challenges affect the whole family, of course. We look forward to spending time together next week, hopefully talking through the uncertainty, wondering, and frustration, with God providing a workable direction and plan. Have a wonderful Sabbath! We love you bunches! Always, dd”



L. to R: SengMai (aka AhMai), Mr. Dave, Mrs. Denise, TooMar, MyoZaw, Zin (aka Victor), in their new Yangon home and where worship services are also held.



L Sabbath sermon by Mr. Dave with SengAung translating in JawkTaing



L L. to R: SengMai, Mr. Dave, SengAung, with baby JaSeng, and SengPan in pastor home, JawkTaing.



At the pastor's house—lunch with the Dobson's.



HserNayPaw, Mrs. Denise, NayBlooHtoo.



Special music by the younger youth.

**But that was not all!**

### **3. JawkTaing Pastor and Wife Invited to Philippine Ministerial Training!**

A December invitation was extended by the United Church of God for our JawkTaing, Myanmar pastor Gum SengAung, and his wife Jum SengPan, to be a part of a four-day pastor's leadership training program in the Philippines. They will also be taking their new baby JaSeng. They already have two children (Blessing 10, and NawNaw 4 ½). This too is being funded by our Hong Kong Brethren! This is an awesome opportunity for them to be able to attend in an ASEAN member state, since no visa is required! Plus, it will be with Asian brethren who have similar Asian cultures. In Thailand we say: "same, same, but different."



SengPan with JaSeng, SengAung with NawNaw, and Blessing in forefront.

The Dobson visit was a miracle blessing made possible by brotherly desire and love, and by the Hong Kong brethren. Legacy will continue at this time. The visit has given us encouragement and a PLAN so that our brethren here in Thailand and Burma will not be left behind without an overseer! Our discussions helped us look to the future of our brethren. Legacy still has monthly physical needs that

must continue to be met both in Burma and in Thailand. So dear donors—brethren and fellow-laborers—please continue your support as you have faithfully done. We have seen a huge drop in income. We will move on—fight on—as God leads us!

### HSErNAYPAW AND NAYBLOOHTOO IN NURSING SCHOOLS

Both HserNayPaw and NayBlooHtoo graduated from high school in March, and are now attending nursing school. HserNayPaw is in Yangon, and NayBlooHtoo is in Taungoo.



HserNayPaw in second day of class.

Here is what HserNayPaw writes:

*Hello Aj Gloria and Aj Leon, I'm doing well i'm already in yangon and i live with ah mai at aunt toomar's old house and on the sabbath we go to church at toomar's new house with whitey family. i already start going to nurse school for two days and the school is teaching good and high and we have 40 students in class. many students are already finish collage and some have been learning about nursing before... and they know well so i'm a little afraid. but i remember (with God all things are possible) and i hope it will be going well and i will try my best. The teacher is very good and teach clearly. miss you alot Aj. can't help you nothing but only by pray Aj, you and your family are always in my prayers. I got a lot of example from you--your'e very smart, patient, kind, and brave. may God watch care you and bless you with your family. -your sincerely  
Hser nay paw*

Here is what NayBlooHtoo writes:

*Hello Aj, My nurse school is going well and also I enjoy it . . . and I went to church every week if no rain. I could feel that it not easy to remember the medicine's name but I really try hard to studying it . . . I have to use these now:*



NayBlooHtoo with patient.

*Pray for you always . . . for Aj Leon to be healthy again. You are a strong woman. Love you aj*

## JAWKTAING COMMUNITY BRIDGE HEADED BY SENG AUNG.

Our JawkTaing pastor Seng Aung is now leader for building the bridge over the river. The JawkTaing community and church brethren have worked right through the rains and heat. When completed, even a light truck will be able to cross. Some have also donated funds from both the surrounding community and church. Many supplies have been taken out of the jungle such as bamboo, stones or rocks, and sand from the river.



Mr. Dave and Mrs. Denise on old bridge with new one growing in the background.



New bridge under construction—SengAung in Red.

Continuing in the work we have been given to do in this part of the world!

In Christian love,



Leon and Gloria

### Update on Leon

A very special COG family, and long-time supporters of Legacy have paid for Leon's new adjustable shunt, since Thailand Social Health did not cover it. The new shunt has been adjusted twice, and now the results are much improved—almost like we saw after the lumbar puncture. It's possible that there might be one or two more adjustments. Leon has been cleared to fly by his neurologist and if all continues well as he strengthens we will be very excited to travel again to Burma for the Feast of Tabernacles if God so wills it! Please continue your prayers for the correct balance of water in Leon's brain.

Leon again attended services and was able to read his sermon, which was on the topic of Jacob and his trials—very much the same as at the beginning of this letter. He did read a couple of paragraphs twice and skipped a couple. Once he did expound quite nicely. We are bringing a light and changing the font again in hopes for improvement.

THANKS BE TO GOD and to ALL OF YOU—He has heard our prayers and has answered them!!!